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SOURCE Hurriyet

REPORT GUERRILLAS SURROUND ALBANIAN CAPITAL,
HEAD OF SOVIET MILITARY MISSION REPLACED

Athens. 20 May r. According to reports reaching here, strict security measures have been taken in Tirana. During the daytime, armed militia units patrol the streets, and at night they are reinforced by army units. The reason for these measures is that a guerrilla unit of 5,000 men has now surrounded the city. The same report claimed that every civilian on the streets of Tirana is stopped at every street corner and forced to show identity cards.

It is also reported that the peasants in southern Albania have announced that they will not turn over their harvests to the Communists and are in fact concealing them. The Communist administrators, to force delivery of crops, have announced that those who violate the law will be executed immediately. It is said that the Soviet colonel who serves as liaison officer between the Soviet military mission and the Albanian Ministry of Interior was largely responsible for this decision.

According to another unconfirmed report, the broadening of resistance activities in Albania and the precarious position of the Enver Hoxha regime resulted in the dismissal of the Soviet general heading the Soviet military mission in Tirana. The report adds that another Soviet general, whose name is not yet known, has been sent to Tirana to replace the dismissed officer.

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